

(c) REMARKS

The claims are 1-4, 6, 8 and 15-17, with claims 1 and 16 being independent. Nonelected claims 10-14 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer to the filing of a division thereto. The subject matter of claims 5 and 9 has been added to claim 1. Claim 6 has been limited to a coloring material and claim 7 has been cancelled. Claim 8 is now dependent on claim 6. New claims 15-17 have been added. Reconsideration or consideration, as the case may be, of the claims is requested.

Support for the amendments to claim 1 is found, inter alia, on page 16, lines 25-27 and page 30, lines 15-18.

New claim 15 is supported by the description at page 9, lines 10-21, the Examples and so on. New claim 16 is supported by the description at page 28, line 25 to page 29, line 11; page 31, line 5 to page 32, line 12; the Examples and the like. New claim 17 is supported by the description at page 29, lines 11-21; page 31, lines 7-18; the Examples and the like.

Claims 1-9 were rejected as anticipated by Canon Kabushiki Kaisha, EP 1,243,624 citing paragraphs [0004], [0006], [0015] and [0061]. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Prior to addressing the grounds of rejection applicants wish to briefly review certain key features and advantages of the present claimed invention.

The present invention is directed to a process for producing a three-dimensional pattern as set forth in claim 1, which comprises the steps of preparing a liquid composition comprising a block polymer having a polyalkenyl ether repeating unit structure and a liquid medium, ejecting the liquid composition to apply the liquid

composition to a recording medium and imparting a stimulus to the applied liquid composition to modify the block polymer, thereby forming the three-dimensional pattern. By employing the present invention, three-dimensional patterns with various characteristics can be formed on a recording medium by modifying with stimulus the liquid composition containing the block polymer having a polyalkenyl ether repeating unit structure applied onto the recording medium. For example, by the modification of the block polymer having a polyalkenyl ether repeating unit structure, a multi-color imaging product with suppressed bleeding between the colors, or three-dimensional objects with high modulus and excellent impact resistance, and the like can be produced.

EP 1,243,624 has four common inventors with the present application, is commonly assigned and was cited to the PTO in an IDS by applicants. Accordingly, its advantages and limitations are well known to applicants.

EP 1,243,624 discloses a stimuli-responsive composition containing a block polymer and a solvent. EP 1,243,624 also discloses that the block polymer can change its properties by stimulus. EP 1,243,624 also notes that the composition can be used for lipsticks and that the composition can be applied to a recording medium as an ink.

However, EP1243624 does not disclose or suggest applying a liquid composition containing a block polymer to a recording medium, and imparting a stimulus to the applied liquid composition to modify the block polymer to form a three-dimensional pattern. When producing the lipstick in EP1243624, a liquid composition is simply applied to a recording medium. No application of stimulus is employed or needed. EP1243624 discloses that a stimuli-responsive liquid composition is applied to a recording medium. However, this is for the purpose of forming two-dimensional images by using the

stimuli-responsive liquid composition as ink (EP1243624, paragraph [0105], Examples, etc.). Thus, EP1243624 is clearly distinguished from the formation of a three-dimensional pattern of the present invention.

Further, EP1243624 does not disclose or suggest the nature of viscoelastic properties of the liquid composition in the recording medium, as recited in new claim 15. Additionally, EP1243624 does not disclose or suggest applying a second liquid composition containing a block polymer after a first as so to overlap thereon, as recited in new claim 16. This is because the purpose of EP 1243624 is not to form a three-dimensional pattern, but to merely form a two-dimensional image. If a second liquid composition containing a block polymer is applied after a first so as to overlap thereon, it is very difficult to form good images.

For the foregoing reasons, the present invention is neither anticipated by nor obvious over EP1243624.

The claims should be allowed and the case passed to issue.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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